endemic districts in the country was held on 13th and 14th September, 1995. The purpose of this workshop was to finalise the modalities for implementing the child labour projects at the district level and getting necessary feedback from the field level agencies for shaping the future child labour elimination programme in the country. The workshop resulted in the sanctioning of 63 National Child Labour Projects benefitting a total of 1.20 lakh children. This is in addition to 12 ongoing National Child Labour Projects. In all around 1,36,000 children in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal are covered under these projects.

उपभोक्ता मंचों को कार्य-कुशल तथा कारगर बनाने हेतु कदम

1302. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री 27 नवम्बर, 1995 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 56 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उपभोक्ता संरक्षण मंचों को और अधिक कार्य-कुशल तथा कारगर बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली विभाग) (श्री विनोद शर्मा): उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम तथा उसके तहत बनाए गए नियमों में दी गई प्रक्रिया, उपभोक्ता शिकायतों पर कार्रवाई करने के लिए पर्याप्त है। तथापि, प्रतितोष अभिकरण को अधिक कार्य-कुशल बनाने के लिए, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 के तहत स्थापित किए गए उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों के आधार-ढांचे को मजबूत करने के लिए राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को मुहैया कराने हेतु 61 करोड़ रुपए की एक बाकी वित्तीय सहायता की स्कीम अनुमोदित की है। राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को पहली किश्त के रूप में 15.45 करोड़ रुपए की राशि जारी की जा चुकी है।

Leather Exports

1303. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leather export has shown tremendous increase;

(b) if so, the value of exports during the last two years and so far during the current year;

(c) whether Government are taking any measures for technology upgradation and training of manpower to further boost leather exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exports of leather and leather products have increased as shown in the following table:

(US $ Million)

Year	Exports
1993-94	1299.35
1994-95	1558.60
1995-96	723.32

(Upto Aug. '95)
(SOURCE : DGCIS&S)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government is taking various measures for technology upgradation and training of manpower to boost leather exports. These include:

(i) A National Leather Development Programme in association with UNDP was launched in 1992 for modernisation, upgradation of technology and augmentation of the existing facilities for training of manpower.

(ii) Footwear Design & Development Institute has been set up at NOIDA with a view to augment availability of trained manpower at different levels.

(iii) "Leather Technology Mission for sustainable development" has been launched to organise technology driven development grid for the Indian leather industry with a grass root approach, extending from caracass recovery and augmentation of raw material base to technology upgradation of tanneries etc.

(iv) The Central Leather Research Institute, Central Footwear Training Centre, Madras and Agra, Indian Institute of Leather Products, Madras etc. are also engaged in training of manpower.

Entitlement for Pension and Gratuity for Retired Employees of FCI

1304. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the erstwhile Regional Directorate of Food, Government of India, who were transferred to Food Corporation of India and opted for the terminal benefits applicable to Central Government employees are entitled to get pension and gratuity on the pay and allowances drawn by them in FCI at the time of their retirement, in accordance with Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, as amended from time to time;

(b) if so, whether the pension of employees who have retired after 1.8.1987 has been ordered to be paid based on the revised pay scales introduced with effect from 1.8.1987; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to settle their pension?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Not yet.

(c) The scales of pay applicable to the employees of the Food Corporation of India and to the employees of the Central Government are based on different patterns. While the FCI follow Industrial D.A. patterns, the Central Government follows Central D.A. pattern. Since the Central Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1972 have been framed for the Central D.A. pattern employees, it has to be ensured while issuing orders for the employees of the FCI that they do not get unintended benefit over the Central Government employees or *vice versa* in the matter of pension and dearness relief thereon. Decision in the matter has also to be taken in consultation with the Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Expenditure and Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare who is the nodal authority in pension matters. They are being consulted in the matter.

Work under MPLADS in Uttar Pradesh

1305. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of work executed under the MPs Local Area Development Scheme in Uttar Pradesh upto 30th September, 1995 (year-wise);

(b) what is the time frame in which the District Collector is required to take up the work and the formalities to be observed;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the District Collectors are not prompt in getting the work done under this scheme; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The guidelines do not stipulate any time frame in which the District Collectors should take up the works. However, the Collectors and the implementing agencies are responsible for the successful and expeditious completion of works. As regards the formalities to be observed, the guidelines laid down under the scheme stipulate that the Member or Parliament shall recommend the works to be executed by the concerned District Collectors. The concerned District Collectors will finally select the implementing agencies for the various